Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled.)

2. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

determining whether a predetermined policy followed by a first virtual local area network (VLAN) is supported by a port of a networking device;

disallowing the port membership to the first VLAN if the port fails to support the predetermined policy;

allowing the port membership to the first VLAN if the port fails to support the predetermined policy and the port constitutes a tag-only port; and

disallowing the port membership to the first VLAN if the port supports the predetermined policy and is a current member of a second VLAN following the predetermined policy.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:

allowing the port membership to the first VLAN if the port supports the predetermined policy and is not a current member of a second VLAN following the predetermined policy.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the predetermined policy is associated with untagged frames.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:

determining whether a change of a tagging option of the port is requested; and

allowing the change in the tagging option from an untagged state to a tagged state.

6. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

determining whether a predetermined policy followed by a first virtual local area network (VLAN) is supported by a port of a networking device;

disallowing the port membership to the first VLAN if the port fails to support the predetermined policy;

allowing the port membership to the first VLAN if the port fails to support the predetermined policy and the port constitutes a tag-only port;

determining whether a change of a tagging option of the port is requested;

allowing the change in the tagging option from an untagged state to a tagged state; and

disallowing the change in the tagging option if the change in the tagging option is from the tagged state to the untagged state and the port is a member of a second VLAN following the predetermined policy.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising:

allowing the change in the tagging option if the change in the tagging option is from the tagged state to the untagged state and the port is not a member of the second VLAN following the predetermined policy.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:

determining whether a change of a filtering option of the port is requested; and

allowing the change in the filtering option from a "Do Not Filter" state to a "Do Filter" state.

9.   (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

determining whether a predetermined policy followed by a first virtual local area network (VLAN) is supported by a port of a networking device;

disallowing the port membership to the first VLAN if the port fails to support the predetermined policy;

allowing the port membership to the first VLAN if the port fails to support the predetermined policy and the port constitutes a tag-only port;

determining whether a change of a filtering option of the port is requested;

allowing the change in the filtering option from a "Do Not Filter" state to a "Do Filter" state; and

disallowing the change in the filtering option if the change in the filtering option is from the "Do Filter" state to the "Do Not Filter" state and the port is a member of a second VLAN following the predetermined policy.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

allowing the change in the filtering option if the change in the filtering option is from the "Do Filter" state to the "Do Not Filter" state and the port is not a member of the second VLAN following the predetermined policy.

11. (Cancelled.)

12. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

determining whether a ~~selected~~ port of a networking device is a tag-only port;

allowing membership of the port to a first virtual local area network (VLAN) if the ~~selected~~ port is a tag-only port;

determining whether a predetermined policy followed by the first VLAN is supported by the a port ~~of a networking device~~; and

disallowing ~~the port~~ membership of the port to the first VLAN if the port supports the predetermined policy and the ~~selected~~ port is a member of ~~the~~ a second VLAN following the predetermined policy.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the predetermined policy is associated with untagged frames.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

determining whether a change of a tagging option of the port is requested; and

allowing the change in the tagging option from an untagged state to a tagged state.

15. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

determining whether a ~~selected~~ port of a networking device is a tag-only port;

allowing membership of the port to a first virtual local area network (VLAN) if the selected port is a tag-only port;

determining whether a predetermined policy followed by the first VLAN is supported by the ~~a~~ port ~~of a networking device~~;

disallowing ~~the port~~ membership of the port to the first VLAN if the port fails to support the predetermined policy and the ~~selected~~ port is a member of a second VLAN following the predetermined policy;

allowing ~~the port~~ membership of the port to the first VLAN if the port supports the predetermined policy and the ~~selected~~ port is not a member of the second VLAN following the predetermined policy;

determining whether a change of a tagging option of the port is requested;

allowing the change in the tagging option from an untagged state to a tagged state; and

disallowing the change in the tagging option if the change in the tagging option is from the tagged state to the untagged state and the port is a member of a second VLAN following the predetermined policy.

16.   (Cancelled.)

17.   (Cancelled.)

18.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

determining whether a predetermined policy followed by a first virtual local area network (VLAN) is supported by a port of a networking device;

determining whether a change of a filtering option of the port is requested; and

disallowing the change in the filtering option if (i) the change in the filtering option is from a "Do Filter" state to a "Do Not Filter" state, (ii) the port is a member of the first VLAN having a policy that fails to support untagged frames, and (iii) the port is a member of a second VLAN following the predetermined policy;.

disallowing the port membership to the first VLAN if the port fails to support the predetermined policy and the selected port is a member of a second VLAN following the predetermined policy; and

allowing the port membership to the first VLAN if the port supports the predetermined policy and the selected port is not a member of the second VLAN following the predetermined policy.; and

19.   (Previously Presented) A networking device comprising:

a plurality of ports; and

a processing unit to control membership of at least one of the plurality of ports to a policy-based virtual local area network (VLAN), the processing unit to determine whether a change of a tagging option of the at least one port is requested, allow the change in the tagging option if the tagging option is changed from an untagged state to a tagged state, and disallow the change in the tagging option if the change in the tagging option is from the tagged state to the untagged state and the at least one port is a member of another VLAN following a predetermined policy of the policy-based VLAN.

20.   (Previously Presented) The networking device of claim 21, wherein the processing unit further disallows the at least one port of the plurality of ports membership to the policy-based VLAN if the at least one port fails to support the predetermined policy.

21.   (Previously Presented) A networking device comprising:

a plurality of ports; and

a processing unit to control membership of at least one of the plurality of ports to a policy-based virtual local area network (VLAN), the processing unit further disallows membership to the policy-based VLAN if the at least one port supports the predetermined policy and is also a current member of another VLAN following the predetermined policy.

22.   (Original) The networking device of claim 21, wherein the predetermined policy is associated with untagged frames.

23.   (Cancelled.)

24.   (Cancelled.)

25.   (Previously Presented) A program loaded in memory of a networking device for execution therein, the program comprising:

a first subprogram to determine whether a predetermined policy followed by the policy-based VLAN is supported by a port of a networking device; and

a second subprogram to disallow the at least one port of the plurality of ports membership to the policy-based VLAN if the at least one port supports the predetermined policy and is also a current member of another VLAN following the predetermined policy.

26.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

disallowing ~~the port~~ membership of the port to the first VLAN if the port fails to support the predetermined policy and the ~~selected~~ port is a member of a second VLAN following the predetermined policy; and

allowing ~~the port~~ membership of the port to the first VLAN if the port supports the predetermined policy and the ~~selected~~ port is not a member of the second VLAN following the predetermined policy.

27.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising:

disallowing ~~the port~~ membership of the port to the first VLAN if the port fails to support the predetermined policy and the ~~selected~~ port is a member of a second VLAN following the predetermined policy; and

allowing ~~the port~~ membership of the port to the first VLAN if the port supports the predetermined policy and the selected port is not a member of the second VLAN following the predetermined policy.